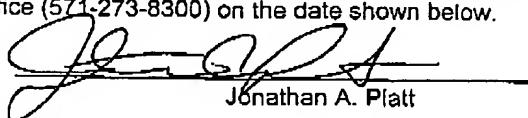


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Date: March 17, 2006
Jonathan A. Platt

Attorney Docket No. ERICP0326USB

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Applicants: Gregel et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,509

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: REINFORCING BAR CONNECTION AND METHOD

Examiner: James R. Brittain

Art Unit: 3677

SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a supplemental reply filed in response to the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed March 14, 2006. The Notice indicates that the prior reply was not fully responsive because of a failure to indicate whether the new claims 56-68 read on the elected species of the embodiments shown in Figs. 29-32.

In response, Applicants now indicate that all of the newly-added claims 56-68 read on the elected species of Group 5, the embodiments shown in Figs. 29-32 and described in the corresponding specification text.

10/697,509ERICP0326USB

No fee is believed due with the filing of this paper. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. ERICP326USB).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By



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